The following Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A variable displacement compressor comprising: ~~which comprises~~

a compression mechanism ~~(20)~~ and a drive mechanism ~~(30)~~ operable to activate said compression mechanism ~~(20)~~ and in which said compression mechanism ~~(20)~~ includes a discharge valve mechanism ~~(40)~~, ~~wherein:~~

said discharge valve mechanism ~~(40)~~ ~~is~~ being configured such that a plurality of discharge openings ~~(29a, 29b)~~ are placed in an open or closed state by ~~means of~~ a plate-like valve element ~~(41)~~ which is a reed valve, and each of said discharge openings ~~(29a, 29b)~~ is formed at a respective location between a base end side and a leading end side of said valve element ~~(41)~~, and

a ~~corresponding~~ first portion of said valve element ~~(41)~~ corresponding to one of said discharge openings ~~(29a)~~ on the leading end side has a bending strength set smaller than that of a ~~corresponding~~ second portion of said valve element ~~(41)~~ corresponding to another one of said discharge openings ~~(29b)~~ on the base end side.

2. (Currently Amended) The variable displacement compressor as set forth in claim 1, ~~wherein:~~

two discharge openings ~~(29a, 29b)~~ are formed in said compression mechanism ~~(20)~~, and

said valve element ~~(41)~~ includes a small-width part ~~(41a)~~ of smaller width dimension between said ~~corresponding~~ second portion corresponding to said discharge opening ~~(29b)~~ on the base end side and said ~~corresponding~~ first portion corresponding to said discharge opening ~~(29a)~~ on the leading end side.

3. (Currently Amended) The variable displacement compressor as set forth in claim 1, ~~wherein:~~

two discharge openings ~~(29a, 29b)~~ are formed in said compression mechanism ~~(20)~~, and

said ~~corresponding~~ first portion of said valve element ~~(41)~~ corresponding to said discharge opening ~~(29a)~~ on the leading end side has a smaller width dimension than that of said ~~corresponding~~ second portion of said valve element ~~(41)~~ corresponding to said discharge opening ~~(29b)~~ on the base end side.

4. (Currently Amended) A variable displacement compressor comprising: ~~which comprises~~

a compression mechanism ~~(20)~~ and a drive mechanism ~~(30)~~ operable to activate said compression mechanism ~~(20)~~ and in which said compression mechanism ~~(20)~~ includes a discharge valve mechanism ~~(40)~~, ~~wherein:~~

said discharge valve mechanism ~~(40) comprises~~ having a first valve mechanism ~~(40A)~~ including a first valve element ~~(41A)~~ which is a reed valve operable to place a discharge opening ~~(29a)~~ in an open or closed state, and a second valve mechanism ~~(40B)~~ including a

second valve element ~~(41B)~~ which is a poppet valve operable to place another discharge opening ~~(29b)~~ in an open or closed state.

5. (Currently Amended) The variable displacement compressor according to claim 4, wherein~~:~~

said first valve mechanism ~~(40A)~~ has a first discharge port diameter ~~(φDd1)~~ and a first seat diameter ~~(φDs1)~~ and said second valve mechanism ~~(40B)~~ has a second discharge port diameter ~~(φDd2)~~ and a second seat diameter ~~(φDs2)~~, said ~~discharge port diameters being set such that φDd1 < φDd2, said seat diameters being set such that φDs1 < φDs2~~ first discharge port diameter is less than said second discharge port diameter and said first seat diameter is less than said second seat diameter, and

said first valve element ~~(41A)~~ has a first lift amount ~~(L1)~~ and said second valve element ~~(41B)~~ has a second lift amount ~~(L2)~~, said ~~lift amounts being set such that L2 < L1~~ second lift amount is less than said first lift amount.

6. (Currently Amended) A variable displacement compressor ~~which comprises~~ according to claim 1, wherein

~~a compression mechanism (20) and a drive mechanism (30) operable to activate said compression mechanism (20) and in which said compression mechanism (20) includes a discharge valve mechanism (40), wherein:~~

~~said discharge valve mechanism (40) is configured such that a plurality of discharge openings (29a, 29b) are placed in an open or closed state by means of a plate like valve~~

~~element (43), and each of said discharge openings (29a, 29b) is formed at a respective location between a base end side and a leading end side of said valve element (43), and~~

~~a corresponding portion (43a) of said valve element (43) to said discharge openings (29a) on the leading end side has a smaller bending strength than that of a corresponding portion (43b) of said valve element (43) to said discharge openings (29b) on the base end side, and~~

said first ~~corresponding~~ portion ~~(43a) to said discharge opening (29a)~~ of said valve element corresponding to one of said discharge openings on the leading end side is formed as ~~a~~ the reed valve while said second ~~corresponding portion (43b) to said discharge opening (29b)~~ of said valve elementcorresponding to another one of said discharge openings on the base end side is formed as a poppet valve.

7. (Currently Amended) The variable displacement compressor as set forth in claim 6, wherein:

two discharge openings ~~(29a, 29b)~~ are formed in said compression mechanism ~~(20)~~, and

said valve element ~~(43)~~ includes a small-width part ~~(43c)~~ of smaller width dimension between ~~a corresponding~~ said second portion of said valve element ~~(43)~~ corresponding to said discharge opening ~~(29b)~~ on the base end side and ~~a corresponding~~ said first portion of said valve element ~~(43)~~ corresponding to said discharge opening ~~(29a)~~ on the leading end side.

8. (Currently Amended) The variable displacement compressor as set forth in claim 6, wherein:

two discharge openings ~~(29a, 29b)~~ are formed in said compression mechanism ~~(20)~~, and

~~a corresponding~~ said first portion of said valve element ~~(43)~~ corresponding to said discharge opening ~~(29a)~~ on the leading end side has a smaller width dimension than that of ~~a corresponding~~ said second portion of said valve element ~~(43)~~ corresponding to said discharge opening ~~(29b)~~ on the base end side.

9. (Currently Amended) A variable displacement compressor comprising: ~~which comprises~~

a compression mechanism ~~(20)~~ and a drive mechanism ~~(30)~~ operable to activate said compression mechanism ~~(20)~~ and in which said compression mechanism ~~(20)~~ includes a discharge valve mechanism ~~(40)~~, ~~wherein:~~

said discharge valve mechanism ~~(40)~~ ~~comprises~~ having a first valve mechanism ~~(40A)~~ including a first valve element ~~(41A)~~ operable to place a discharge opening ~~(29a)~~ in an open or closed state, and a second valve mechanism ~~(40B)~~ including a second valve element ~~(41B)~~ operable to place another discharge opening ~~(29b)~~ in an open or closed state, and

both said first valve element ~~(41A)~~ and said second valve element ~~(41B)~~ are formed by reed valves and said first valve element ~~(41A) has~~ having a bending strength set smaller than that of said second valve element ~~(41B)~~.

10. (Currently Amended) The variable displacement compressor as set forth in claim 9, wherein:

said first valve element ~~(41A)~~ has a smaller thickness than that of said second valve element ~~(41B)~~.